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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 862
By Burks

A RESOLUTION to commend Jamar T. Fuqua for exemplary service as a legislative intern.

WHEREAS, each legislative session this body is pleased to recognize certain persons who have committed themselves, through their adroit service, to the betterment of the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, Jamar T. Fuqua is one such individual who has distinguished himself in his role as a legislative intern for Senator Charlotte Burks; his work has resulted in innumerable benefits for the legislator he assisted and the General Assembly as a whole; and

WHEREAS, an esteemed graduate of the Gallatin High School Class of 1998, he served as only the second African American Student Body President in the past twenty years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fuqua's extraordinary achievements as Student Body President include the establishment of an orientation program for new students and a Student Council "Star of the Week" Award, which was created to recognize positive student contributions; and

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WHEREAS, Jamar Fuqua attributes his extraordinary success as a leader among his peers to the lessons he has learned from the legacy of his role model, Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, throughout his high school career, he distinguished himself as a young Tennessean of great promise; he skillfully presented an honorary introductory speech for United States Senator Bill Frist, enthusiastically participated in Tennessee's Inaugural Governor's School for Manufacturing, and was active in Tennessee Tomorrow, a state-wide leadership organization for teens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fuqua, through his excellence in academics and accomplishments in leadership, achieved the distinct honor of being the first recipient of Tennessee Technological University's first \$25,000 Riggio Scholarship, a four-year tuition and living expenses scholarship for outstanding African American students, which has been funded by Barnes and Noble CEO Leonard Riggio; and

WHEREAS, Gallatin High School guidance counselor, Joan Tomlin, has said of Jamar Fuqua, that he "is one of the most honest, responsible, and hard-working students we've ever had," describing him as a "compassionate, kind, and selfless" individual; and

WHEREAS, now a student at the Tennessee Technological University, where he is highly regarded by his peers, he has achieved academic success while pursuing degrees in both Political Science and Business Management - Information Systems, and participating in numerous extracurricular activities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fuqua has been an active and valued member of many programs and clubs at Tennessee Technological University; he has astutely served as the President of the Phi Pi Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society; member of Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society; member of the Tennessee Technological University Mock Trial Team; member of the Tennessee Technological University Pre-Law Society; Secretary for Minority Affairs for the Tennessee Technological Student Government Association; and member of the Association of Information Technology Professionals; and

WHEREAS, Jamar Fuqua's outstanding intellect, persistence, and activism have earned him numerous awards and honors, including recognition from the Daughters of the American Revolution; he has also been honored by having his article, "Thoughts on Race," published in *Intersections*, a Sociology reader; and

WHEREAS, an exemplary employee, he served with acumen and alacrity as a Service Manager and Customer Service Representative for Ovation Computer Systems Inc. from October of 1998 to April of 2001, and as a Student Technology Assistant for the Tennessee Technological University College of Business Administration from April to December of 2001; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable young man has achieved Comp TIA A+ Certification for Computer Professionals; and

WHEREAS, Jamar is also a member of the American Bowling Congress and has served as a League Delegate for the Cookeville Bowling Association; and

WHEREAS, Jamar Fuqua's noteworthy achievements are a tremendous source of pride for his parents, John and Marsha Fuqua; his brother, Gregory Fuqua, who is a distinguished graduate of SAE Music Recording Institute; his paternal grandparents, Houston T. and Bertha Fuqua; and his maternal grandparents, Lula Mae Swoopes and the late Matthew Swoopes, who died in 1968; and

WHEREAS, compelled to make a positive difference in his community, Jamar is active in local, state, and national politics; an eloquent advocate for improvement in education, he has spoken at many civic and political meetings, as well as participating in events with Congressman Bart Gordon and Governor Don Sundquist; and

WHEREAS, eager to familiarize himself with the characteristics and complexity of Tennessee state government and to further his studies, Mr. Fuqua brought his many abilities and singular expertise to Nashville for the 2002 session of the One Hundred Second General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, in addition to fulfilling his duties as a Legislative Intern, Jamar Fuqua performed many other duties with distinction, while Senator Burks's Assistant, Pam Ash, was on leave due to illness; during these occasions, he was a tremendous asset to Senator Burks as he astutely performed both jobs, always keeping pace with the rigorous daily schedule of Legislative Plaza, Suite 9; and

WHEREAS, possessing a remarkable ability to work well with people from all walks of life, he has demonstrated substantial knowledge of the legislative process and a keen interest in the practices and functions of State government; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fuqua's display of intellectual aptitude, exemplary work ethic, and outstanding performance as an intern with the Tennessee General Assembly surely bodes well for his future success in the business management field and his continued involvement in politics; and

WHEREAS, throughout the 2002 legislative session, Jamar Fuqua has surpassed all criteria that define a devoted and conscientious legislative intern; he has earned the respect of everyone with whom he has worked through his hard work, compassion for his fellow man, and his diligence in completing his responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fuqua has performed his duties above and beyond what has been required of him, executing his many responsibilities with extraordinary insight and rare decorum; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby commend Jamar T. Fuqua for outstanding service as a legislative intern for Senator Charlotte Burks, recognize his significant contributions to the legislative process, applaud his exemplary academic record, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

